

From:
From: John Wetzel
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 4:01 PM
To: Ramapriya, Jeevan (MOITI)
Subject: Accepted: HOLD: Israel National Defense College Delegation

Meeting with the Israel National Defense College (MABAL) Delegation

Overview: In partnership with the Consulate of Israel to New England, MOITI is hosting a delegation of 12 members from the Israel National Defense College (INDC) – a leading institution that trains, shapes, and empowers senior national security leadership in the State of Israel.

The primary purpose of the discussion is to share perspectives and expertise on the Massachusetts defense sector, the SHIELD initiative, and impacts on national or state security.

Date: Tuesday 2 June 2026
10:30am to 11:30am

Location: McCormack State Office Building
1 Ashburton Place
Conference Room 1
Boston, MA 02108

State Attendees:

1. Jeevan Ramapriya, Executive Director of the Mass. Office of International Trade and Investment
2. Undersecretary Sue Terrey, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
3. Major General Gary W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Army National Guard
4. John Wetzel, Director, Strategic Investment and Business Operations at Mass. Technology Collaborative

Delegation Attendees:

5. Benjamin Sharoni, Consul General of Israel to New England
6. Liron Finkelstein, Deputy Consul General of Israel to New England
7. Ted Wof, Director of Communications and Digital Diplomacy at the Consulate of Israel to New England
8. Ms. Noa Cohen, Israel National Defense College
9. Colonel William Alexander Colquhoun, British Army
10. Colonel Tanel Rattiste, Estonian Defense Forces
11. Colonel Or Zvi Vollozinky, Israel Defense Forces
12. Commander Chair Ilan Mizrachi, Israel Police
13. Mr. Amit Shtaubert, Israel Ministry of Finance
14. Mr. Nissim Avraham, Israel Land Authority
15. Colonel Shai Lerman, Israel Defense Forces
16. Mr. Tal Gat, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs
17. Colonel Adi Kamper, Israel Defense Forces
18. Major Gilad Yehuda Ritterband, Israel Defense Forces
19. Professor Yossef Nissim Ben Zrtzi, University of Haifa

Run of Show:

**Please note that the schedule may shift slightly.

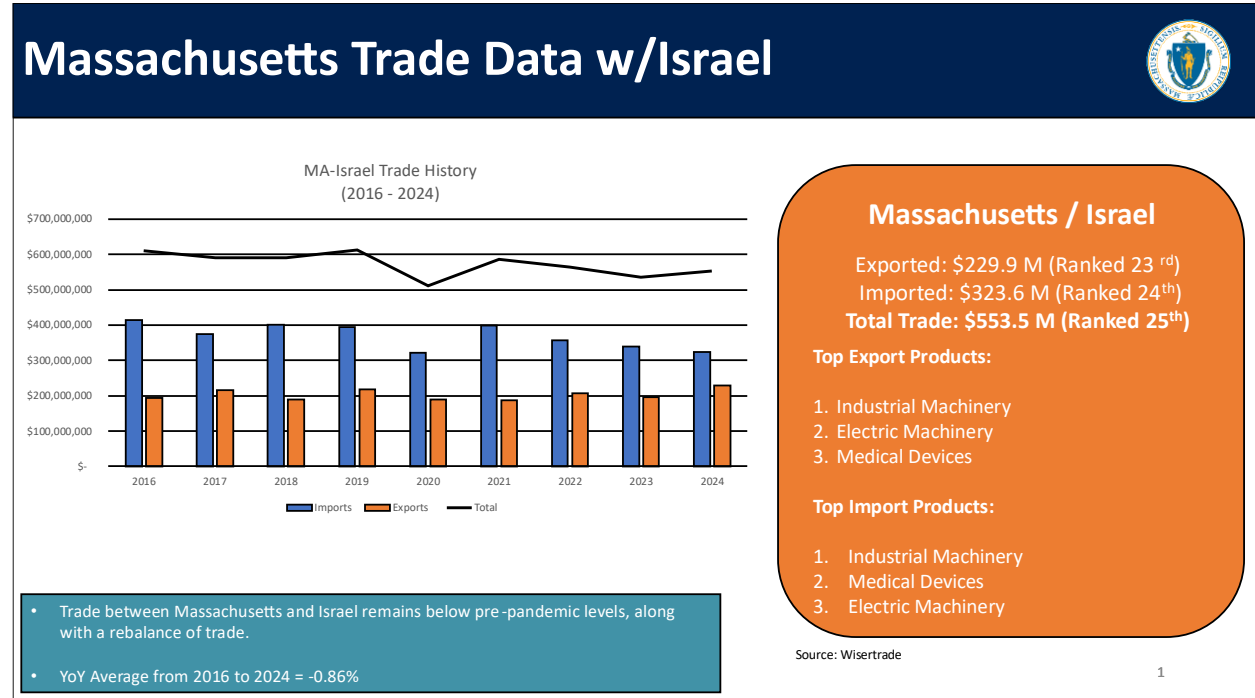
- 10:35 to 10:40 AM — Opening Remarks – Jeevan Ramapriya & Consul General Benny Sharoni
- 10:45 to 10:55 AM — Self Introductions of Team Massachusetts: Undersecretary Sue Terrey, Maj. General Keefe, John Wetzel
- 11:00 to 11:25 AM --- Moderated Discussion
- 11:25 to 11:30 AM --- Closing Remarks and Group Photo

Background:

About the Israel National Defense College (INDC)

- The Israel National Defense College (INDC), also known as the National Security College, is Israel's highest institution for training senior staff in the IDF, the defense establishment, and government ministries.
- The college was initially established in the early 1960s by IDF Chief-of-Staff Haim Laskov and officially reestablished under a government decision in 1976.
- It is a vital stepping stone for high command. Many of its alumni go on to serve in the highest echelons of Israel's military and intelligence command structure, including the IDF Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Its core mission is to empower senior national security leadership and develop comprehensive national defense doctrines.
- The flagship training program is an intensive 10-month course where students study a mix of military theory, economics, international relations, Middle Eastern affairs, and organizational culture.
- The program is integrated with the University of Haifa, and graduates earn a Master of Arts (M.A.) in Political Science with a specialization in National Security.
- The college hosts a mix of senior military officers (typically Colonels and Brigadier Generals) and high-ranking civilian officials from government agencies (such as the Ministries of Defense and Finance).
- The INDC frequently hosts senior public decision-makers and high-ranking military officers from allied nations, including the United States, Germany, Singapore, and Canada.

Massachusetts-Israel Trade History



- Israel has one of the highest startup densities in the world and strong venture capital activity, while Massachusetts provides access to U.S. markets, research institutions, and investors.

Recent News:

- [Israel Government \(Jan. 20, 2026\) “Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to National Defense College Trainees”](#)
 - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with National Defense College trainees, including Brigadier Generals in the IDF and senior officials of the security services.
 - The Prime Minister reviewed the key decisions made throughout the War of Redemption that led to changing the face of the entire Middle East and answered their questions.
 - “We are turning Israel into a regional power, and some aspects, a global power. We need a very strong defense, independent production capacity, and to deepen our relative advantage.”
- [Reuters \(September 15, 2025\), “Britain bans Israelis from London defense college over Gaza escalation”](#)
 - Britain has banned Israeli students from attending the Royal College of Defence Studies in London starting next year due to the ongoing military escalation in Gaza.

- The UK Ministry of Defense stated that the decision to pause Israeli participation on UK-run courses was driven by the Israeli government's choice to further expand its military operations in Gaza City.
 - Israel's Ministry of Defense strongly criticized the ban, calling the exclusion a "discriminatory" and "dishonourable act of disloyalty" to an ally at war.
 - This academic restriction follows a separate decision earlier in September 2025, where Britain barred Israeli officials from attending the country's largest arms fair.
- [Reuters \(June 16, 2025\), “Israel furious as France shuts weapons stands at Paris Airshow”](#)
 - France shut down the main Israeli weapons stands at the Paris Airshow, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, IAI, and Uvision, after the companies refused to comply with a ban on displaying offensive attack hardware.
 - The French government, led by Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, stated that rules prohibiting offensive weapons had been communicated to exhibitors in advance, citing deep concerns over the conflict in Gaza.
 - The Israeli defense ministry reacted with fury, calling the decision unprecedented and commercially motivated to block competition against French industries, and subsequently filed court petitions against the ban.
 - The diplomatic dispute heavily disrupted the opening day of the world's largest aviation trade fair, which was already subdued following a recent Boeing 787 crash and ongoing tensions in the Middle East.
 - [Boston Herald \(Nov. 24, 2025\), “Benny Sharoni Op-Ed: Israel, Boston partnership built on innovation”](#)
 - Benjamin Sharoni, the Consul General of Israel to New England, highlights the strategic partnership between Israel and Boston, noting that both regions are leading innovation hubs with shared strengths in biotechnology, life sciences, cybersecurity, and AI.
 - Israel contributes cutting-edge technological innovation and resourcefulness backed by high R&D investment, while Boston offers world-class human capital, clinical infrastructure, regulatory expertise, and vital market access.
 - A primary example of this collaboration is Sheba Medical Center's decision to launch its first U.S.-based ARC Innovation Accelerator in Massachusetts, serving as a soft landing pad for global healthcare startups to scale digital and AI solutions.
 - Supported by joint efforts like the Israel-U.S. Binational Industrial Research and Development (BIRD) Foundation, the partnership creates local jobs, attracts capital, and drives breakthroughs in science and medicine to solve global healthcare challenges.

- **Sheba Tel HaShomer (May 12, 2025), “Sheba Medical Center Expands ARC Innovation to the U.S. with the New Accelerator in Massachusetts”**
 - Sheba Medical Center has partnered with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to launch its first U.S.-based ARC Innovation Accelerator in Boston.
 - The accelerator serves as a soft-landing pad for global startups within Sheba's network to develop and scale digital and AI-powered healthcare solutions.
 - The initiative combines Israel's high R&D investment and resourcefulness with Boston's world-class clinical infrastructure, regulatory expertise, and talent pool.
 - Since 2019, the ARC Innovation model has supported over 100 startups, raised more than \$1 billion, and aims to drive economic growth while improving patient outcomes.
- **Israeli Startups Flourishing in Boston: Recent Success Stories and Expansion**
 - Nearly 300 Israel-related companies operate in Massachusetts, with many choosing Boston as their entry point into the U.S. market.
 - Boston’s universities, venture capital networks, and strong life sciences and technology sectors make it an attractive destination for Israeli startups looking to expand internationally.
 - Collaboration between Israeli entrepreneurs and Boston’s healthcare institutions, investors, and research centers helps accelerate innovation and commercialization.

###

The Shabtai Shavit WORLD SUMMIT ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

*The Post “Epic Fury” Security Landscape:
Terrorism, Strategy & Global Order*

1400+

Attendees

50+

Countries

130+

Expert Speakers

30+

Workshops & Panels



OCTOBER 5-8, 2026



REICHMAN UNIVERSITY, HERZLIYA, ISRAEL

Join senior leaders, officials, scholars, and security professionals to examine the most pressing global terrorism trends and counter-terrorism challenges, through high-level keynotes, expert panels, interactive workshops, and exclusive networking.

FIND OUT MORE >>

REGISTER >>

Contact: registration@ict.org.il



As the region contends with ongoing conflict, the summit will look beyond the immediate horizon to the post-conflict landscape expected by October, exploring the future of terrorism and Iran's evolving role in redefining regional and global security dynamics.

From: [Political - Consulate General of ISRAEL in Boston](#)
To: [John Wetzel](#)
Subject: Invitation for the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University conference
Attachments: [One-pager Registration World Summit 2026 \(23\) \(1\).pdf](#)
Sent: 7/7/2026 9:12:45 AM

Hi John-

I wanted to make your team aware of this conference, which some might find of interest.

Please see attached invitation for the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University conference on the topic:

**The Post 'Epic Fury' Security Landscape: Terrorism, Strategy & Global Order.
October 5–8, 2026, on the Reichman University campus in Herzliya, Israel.**

1. The **International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University** holds an annual global conference on counter-terrorism. Established in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, the conference has become one of the world's leading and most influential forums on counter-terrorism and counter-terrorism policy. It brings together internationally recognized experts in counter-terrorism, as well as senior officials from law enforcement, intelligence, and policymaking organizations.
2. Please note that all travel and accommodation expenses will be the responsibility of the participants.

Respectfully,
Erin

Erin Gubert
Director of Political Affairs
Consulate General of Israel to New England
1 Washington St, Boston, MA 02108
Office: 857-449-3704



From: [Ramapriya, Jeevan \(MOITI\)](#)
To: [Keefe, Gary W.; John Wetzel; Terrey, Susan \(EPS\);](#)
Cc: [Aulenback, Tammy S NFG NG MAARNG \(USA\); Clary, Melissa \(MOITI\); Hallinan, Robert S CIV NG MAARNG \(USA\); Oberton, Jason D. \(MIL\);](#)
Subject: RE: Israel National Defense College Delegation
Attachments: [6.2.2026 - Israel National Defense College \(MABAL\).docx](#)
Sent: 5/31/2026 5:12:28 PM

Hi everyone --- here's a draft briefing for our meeting with the Israel National Defense College delegation on Tuesday 2 June at 10:30am to 11:30am.

Let me know if you have any questions – thank you!

+--Jeevan--+

Jeevan Ramapriya
Executive Director
Mass. Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI)
Executive Office of Economic Development
1 Ashburton Place – 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02108
jeevan.ramapriya@mass.gov
O: +1-617-973-8543
D: +1-857-276-2759

From: [Ramapriya, Jeevan \(MOITI\)](#)
To: [John Wetzel](#); [Brianna Wehrs](#);
Cc: [Ben Linville-Engler](#)
Subject: RE: You are invited to join us on a delegation to Israel in October 2026!
Sent: 7/17/2026 11:54:49 AM

Hi --- A couple of things to note:

1. In my role at MOITI, I have participated in these types of delegation trips before, and joined one to Israel back in December 2025.
2. Israel is a strong economic and innovation partner for Massachusetts.
3. Sec. Paley has also been invited to this – it's unclear as to if he will attend yet.
4. There has been an increased level of public records request involving anything to do with Israel.
5. I don't know what the Mass Tech Collaborative's process is, but I'm sure there is one.

Happy to chat further, thanks.

+--Jeevan--+

Jeevan Ramapriya

Executive Director
Mass. Office of International Trade and Investment (MOITI)
Executive Office of Economic Development
1 Ashburton Place – 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02108
jeevan.ramapriya@mass.gov
O: +1-617-973-8543
D: +1-857-276-2759

From: John Wetzel <wetzel@masstech.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 11:41 AM
To: Brianna Wehrs <wehrs@masstech.org>; Ramapriya, Jeevan (MOITI) <Jeevan.Ramapriya@mass.gov>
Cc: Ben Linville-Engler <Linville-Engler@masstech.org>
Subject: Re: You are invited to join us on a delegation to Israel in October 2026!

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi all,

Following up on this. Is there a process for participation on these types of delegations? The organization is following up and requested a follow up by Monday, so I would like to provide an answer either way.

Cheers!
John



John Wetzel
617-371-3999 x227



[Book time to meet with me](#)

From: John Wetzel <wetzel@masstech.org>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 11:14 AM
To: Brianna Wehrs <wehrs@masstech.org>; Ramapriya, Jeevan (MOITI) <jeevan.ramapriya@mass.gov>
Cc: Ben Linville-Engler <Linville-Engler@masstech.org>
Subject: Fw: You are invited to join us on a delegation to Israel in October 2026!

Hi all,

I received this email this morning. I am guessing this invitation is related to my presence on panel for the Israeli National Defense College delegation in June. Please advise on any procedure here.

Cheers!
John



John Wetzel
617-371-3999 x227

[Book time to meet with me](#)

From: Consul General Assistant - Consulate General of ISRAEL in Boston <Cg-Assistant@boston.mfa.gov.il>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 9:58 AM
To: John Wetzel <wetzel@masstech.org>
Subject: You are invited to join us on a delegation to Israel in October 2026!



"Flightech" to Israel - [REDACTED]

Monday, July 6th

Dear John Wetzel,

On behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Consulate General of Israel to New England, I am honored to invite you to participate in a unique delegation to Israel, bringing together 250 leaders from the American technology ecosystem representing all 50 U.S. states.

This historic five-day technological leadership mission, organized in collaboration with the Israel Innovation Authority, will provide participants with a unique opportunity to experience Israel's world-renowned technology and innovation ecosystem while gaining firsthand insight into the opportunities, challenges, and realities shaping the country today.

Through meetings with senior officials, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, academics, and civil society representatives, as well as visits to key national, historical, and cultural sites throughout Israel, participants will develop a deeper understanding of Israel's society, economy, and strategic environment.

This delegation, through the exploration of Israeli innovation and technology, will provide a valuable opportunity to build meaningful connections, deepen mutual understanding, foster future collaborations, and strengthen the enduring partnership between Israel and the United States across all 50 states.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide:

- Round-trip economy airfare from [REDACTED] including domestic U.S. flights to and from [REDACTED]
- All in-country transportation.
- Hotel accommodations.
- Meals and organized programming throughout the visit.

To confirm your participation and begin the registration process or for any questions about this exclusive delegation, please respond by emailing Eitan Gitlin at academic2@boston.mfa.gov.il by July 19. Spots are extremely limited and will fill quickly.

We look forward to welcoming you to Israel for this meaningful and impactful experience.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Sharoni
Consul General of Israel to New England
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel

From: [SCSP](#)
To: [John Wetzel](#)
Subject: The Department of War Should Establish a Strategic Compute Reserve
Sent: 7/30/2026 1:30:14 PM

Forwarded this email? [Subscribe here](#) for more



The Department of War Should Establish a Strategic Compute Reserve

SCSP
JUL 30



READ IN APP ↗

Hi, I'm Ylli Bajraktari, President of the Special Competitive Studies Project. Today's newsletter is authored by Andreas Theodoropoulos, a Research Assistant on SCSP's AI Adoption team and a recent graduate of Tufts' Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, with contributions from James Ryseff, a Director on our AI Adoption team. Andreas argues that the recent conflict with Iran offered a preview of modern war — one in which the Department of War's need for classified compute surges precisely when new capacity is hardest to build, certify, and secure. The good news is that America already possesses the largest and most dynamic commercial data center base in the world. The task now is to ensure that this remarkable national asset can be mobilized when it matters most. To that end, Andreas proposes that the Department of War establish a Strategic Compute Reserve.



Andreas Theodoropoulos

Compute Is the New Currency of Military Power

Modern warfare is increasingly constrained not by the availability of weapons, platforms, or personnel, but by access to the computing power needed to connect and employ them at speed. The recent conflict with Iran made this vividly clear. During Operation Epic Fury, American forces leveraged AI tools such as the Maven Smart System to identify, prioritize, and strike 13,000 targets in the first 38 days of combat — an unprecedented degree of speed and scale in the history of warfare. This achievement echoes what the Ukrainian Armed Forces have demonstrated in their war against Russia, and what the Israel Defense Forces have shown in Gaza, Lebanon, and against Iran. Across the board, software and compute have become central to the way modern wars are fought — and won.

This is, at its core, an American advantage story. The United States leads the world in frontier AI, in cloud infrastructure, and in the data center buildout now reshaping the global economy. But that very dynamism means compute is a resource in fierce demand. Of the more than 35 gigawatts of data center capacity currently under construction in the United States, over 90 percent has already been pre-committed to a corporate customer. Companies like JPMorgan Chase now plan their compute needs five to ten years in advance, while firms such as Uber, Coinbase, and Walmart have had to ration compute expenditures as increasingly capable frontier models drive up costs. The lesson from the commercial sector is unmistakable: organizations can no longer assume compute will be available when they need it, in the quantities they need it. Those who prepare today will hold the advantage tomorrow.

The Canary in the Coal Mine

The compute constraints facing the commercial sector should sharpen the Department of War's focus, given its own rapidly growing appetite for data-driven military systems. The Pentagon has confirmed that Maven Smart System usage during Epic Fury surged month-to-month by 38 percent on unclassified workloads and 89 percent on classified workloads. By token volume, top daily usage surged by 4,425 percent, hitting a peak of 20 billion tokens a day.

Surging demand is only half the picture; the Department's current classified compute base is strikingly small by commercial standards. Consider U.S. Central Command, one of the military's most AI-forward organizations. As of early 2025, CENTCOM's classified network ran on just four NVIDIA H100 GPUs, with a partnership with the Air Force Research Laboratory set to add 24 more — a total the command's chief data officer described as more classified compute capability than anything else he was tracking in the Department. For perspective, a typical commercial server node today holds four to eight of those same chips, meaning one of America's premier combatant commands has been navigating the AI transition with roughly the classified computing power of a single commercial server rack. And a single mid-sized AI company, Inflection AI, assembled a cluster of some 22,000 H100s back in 2023 — hundreds of times the Department's most ambitious classified deployment. The Department itself recognizes the gap: its fiscal year 2027 budget request seeks nearly \$30 billion to transition from

“scattered clusters” of GPUs to an integrated AI infrastructure portfolio. That candor is welcome — and it underscores both how far the Department has to travel and how decisive America’s commercial compute base will be in closing the distance.

As dramatic as these figures are, they would pale in comparison to the scale required to prevail in a major war against a peer competitor like China. A conflict in the Indo-Pacific would demand the analysis and fusion of far more sensor data, the prioritization of a far greater range of targets, and the coordination of operations and logistics across significantly more aircraft, warships, and personnel. These workloads would not be episodic. They would need to run continuously, at the speed of modern combat.

Here the Department faces a familiar dilemma — and history offers a proven answer. In peacetime, building and maintaining dedicated data centers that sit idle or underutilized is prohibitively expensive. In wartime, lead times for new facilities stretch between one and two years. But America has solved this problem before. For decades, civil reserve models have delivered critical resources and services in moments of need, coordinating supply and demand across military and civilian sectors alike. Just as the [Civil Reserve Air Fleet](#) and the [Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement](#) allow the Department to surge transport capacity in a national crisis, the Department should now build the mechanisms to mobilize America’s massive commercial data center capacity in the event of war. Three lines of effort would put a Strategic Compute Reserve within reach.

Reevaluate the Requirements for Classified Compute

As the [Federal Data Center Enhancement Act](#), which set minimum standards for federal data center on uptime, security, and energy use, lapses this September with no replacement in sight, the Administration has an opportunity to build a deliberate compute strategy for national security. This gap reflects a larger pattern: Department data infrastructure and cybersecurity policies have not fully kept pace with the shift to cloud and AI-driven computing. The Department’s leadership has long recognized that its cybersecurity requirements are [excessively compliance-oriented](#) rather than focused on delivering effective security outcomes for the warfighter. Many of these requirements pre-date the development of cloud computing, and they may no longer add value in the new operational paradigm.

The Department should reimagine its regulatory frameworks around risk-based accreditation, identifying which rules still make sense in a cloud computing environment and which are obsolete. In a full-scale war, the Department cannot wait months or years while additional classified compute resources are certified and inspected. The moment to reduce these unnecessary burdens is now, while there is still time to make deliberate reforms rather than deferring difficult decisions until the imminent approach of war forces the issue. By finally delivering on years of promised reforms, the Department can ensure that warfighters have the compute they need if called upon to “fight tonight.”

Pre-Build Security Into Commercial Data Centers

To prepare data centers for mobilization, the Department should work with cloud service providers to upgrade and maintain physical and cyber security environments, scaled to the sensitivity of the workload and the current capabilities of each facility. American industry is already well ahead here: [Amazon Web Services](#), [Microsoft](#), and [Google](#) have all developed the technology to virtually protect and separate commercial and sensitive military data below the Secret level, and the Department can work with providers to integrate this logical separation for classified workloads.

Enabling commercial data centers to run Secret and above workloads will require deeper collaboration and significant infrastructure investment — investment the Department can subsidize to incentivize hyperscalers to meet these stringent requirements. Financial packages could be structured along the lines of the [Maritime Security Program](#), which provides financial backing to ship operators in return for enrollment in the sealift program. [Some upgrades are straightforward](#): replacing magnetic strip key card systems with GSA-approved security locks, hardening air ducts larger than 96 square inches, and preinstalling physically separated SIPRNet wiring. Others — certifying classified supply chains and issuing security clearances to personnel — will take longer and demand significant lead times, which is precisely why the work should begin now.

Fortify Against Major Computing Security Threats

Finally, the Department must recognize that not every cybersecurity risk associated with commercial data centers can be remediated in advance. Facilities that operate as commercial or unclassified environments will contain hardware, networking equipment, or other components that cannot be fully trusted if repurposed for classified military workloads. For these cases, the Department should develop a rapid conversion model that accepts some equipment may need to be removed rather than converted. This approach allows the Department to distinguish between security requirements that can be pre-built into commercial data centers during peacetime and those that must be satisfied through wartime reconstitution before a formerly commercial facility connects to classified networks. The goal is not to pretend all commercial infrastructure can be made trusted in advance, but to build the plans, inventories, supply chains, workforce, and contracting mechanisms needed to transform that infrastructure into trusted military compute at speed.

The Work Ahead

In a world moving at the speed of data, slower queues and greater downtime translate directly into strategic disadvantage — and speed of preparation translates directly into strategic advantage. America enters this competition with assets no rival can match: the world's leading AI companies, the world's largest cloud infrastructure, and a proven tradition of harnessing commercial strength for national defense. What remains is to connect them. A Strategic Compute Reserve would do exactly that, ensuring that the extraordinary computing power America builds in peacetime stands ready to serve the

nation in war. It is the insurance policy the Department of War needs — and one the United States is uniquely positioned to create.

✓ Subscribed

- ♡ LIKE
- 💬 COMMENT
- ↺ RESTACK

© 2026 Special Competitive Studies Project
Crystal City, Virginia, 22202
[Unsubscribe](#)

Get the app

 Start writing